

APRIL, 1966

St. GEORGE'S GAZETTE



V

A REGIMENTAL PAPER FOR THE
FIFTH FUSILIERS

No. 999

VOL. LXXXIV

CONWAY WILLIAMS

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St. George's Gazette.

A REGIMENTAL PAPER FOR "THE OLD AND BOLD"

"Quo fata vocant."

No. 999

30th APRIL, 1966

[Vol. LXXXIV

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EDITOR'S CORNER

THE EDITOR, *St. George's Gazette*,

FIFTH FUSILIERS,

FENHAM BARRACKS,

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

Support your Regimental Journal by sending in an original article, sketch, or poem for publication. These, or any other contributions, should reach the Editor **not later** than the 25th of each month.

Past and Present N.C.O.s, Fusiliers and their friends may receive the *Gazette* monthly, **at a special rate** of 2/- per copy or £1 per year. All others may obtain the *Gazette* at 2/6 per copy or £1 10s. a year.

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The Editor begs to acknowledge with many thanks, receipt of the following newspapers:—

Green Howards' Gazette; R.A.O.C. Gazette; Invicta;

The Men of Harlech; The Wish Stream.

Extracts from the *London Gazette*:—

REGULAR ARMY

Capt. A. K. C. Hill (417438) to be Maj., 8th March, 1966.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Lt. T. J. de C. Brown (468122) to be Capt., 19th Dec., 1964. (Substituted for the notifn. in Gazette (Supplement) dated 17th Sept., 1965.)

Lt. (Q.M.) J. Adamson (474786) to be Capt. (Q.M.) 1st April, 1966.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lt. J. McNally (300201) having attained the age limit, ceases to belong to the T.A. Res. of Officers, 19th March, 1966, and is granted the hon. rank of Lt.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Editor begs to acknowledge with many thanks, receipt of the following subscriptions to *St. George's Gazette*, through the Central Fund:—

PRI 1 RNF, Mr. W. D. Evans, 4th/5th Bn (TA), Mr. J. Hick, Col. C. H. Spence, Mrs. R. W. R. Scott, Mr. K. E. M. Baker, Mrs. E. Daly, Lt.-Col. A. B. Wood.

OBITUARY**EX-SERGEANT-MAJOR LUKE STUART**

It is with regret that we announce the death of Ex-C.S.M. L. (Luke) Stuart, who died in hospital on March 16th, aged 92 years.

He enlisted into The Regiment on 9th March, 1895. He was discharged from regular service in 1907. In 1908 he joined the Territorial Army, enlisting into the 5th Bn. (T.A.).

During his Service life he was present at the Battle of Omdurman and saw active service in South Africa, Crete, and France in World War I.

In 1920 he was selected to take part in the funeral of the Unknown Soldier in Westminster Abbey.

He finally retired from the Territorial Army in 1931.

With his passing The Regiment has lost a gallant old soldier and its last link with the Battle of Omdurman.

To his sister we extend our deepest sympathy in the loss of her brother.

Regimental Headquarters

The Armoury,
Fenham Barracks,
Newcastle upon Tyne, 2.
March, 1966.

THE LARGE REGIMENT

COMMENTS BY MAJOR-GENERAL R. E. T. ST. JOHN, THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT,

IN ELABORATION OF STATEMENT OF POLICY BY COUNCIL OF COLONELS AS PUBLISHED IN ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE
(December, 1965, page 254)

INTRODUCTION

It is apparent that the recently published Statement of Policy on the Large Regiment has caused a certain amount of flutter and eyebrow raising amongst the ranks of the Old and Bold. This is understandable as the Statement is of necessity a bare one and the majority of Past and present members of The Regiment have not had the advantage of hearing all the many discussions, etc., that preceded the Statement.

I therefore attempt here to present an up-to-date picture of the situation as I see it in the hope that some of the "fears" will be alleviated, that reasons for certain steps will be more clearly understood and that support for any future action will be forthcoming.

BACKGROUND

Over the last ten years the Army Department has required an increasing flexibility from Infantry Battalions in order to meet various crises overseas rapidly, at the required strength in Officers, W.O.s, N.C.O.s and Fusiliers and at the required pitch of training.

Current and continuing increase in the use of Air Transportation emphasises this need further as does the latest Defence White Paper. For the foreseeable future this pattern is likely to continue.

To this end the Infantry were grouped into Brigades. To begin with they were largely three-Regiment Brigades. However, disparity in manpower and continuing occurrences of inflexibility, has resulted in the present four-Regiment Brigades for the majority of Brigades.

Despite this reorganisation, individual Regiments continued to be very "Tribal" in outlook. Cross-posting amongst all ranks was more the exception than the rule.

Disparities in manpower continued between Regiments to the dismay of the Army Department. Something had to be done to improve this and so, about 1963, the Infantry Brigades were exhorted to examine the possibilities of the Large Regiment and, if feasible, come up with their recommendations for forming one. The Army Department made it clear that, whatever the outcome, the necessary flexibility within Infantry Brigades had got to be found somehow. How it was achieved was up to the Infantry Brigades to demonstrate.

We all know that there have been in the past and there still are those in high places who lobby for a Corps of Infantry—Heaven forbid the very thought! You can therefore realise that these lobbyists have been watching the Infantry situation very closely and are always poised to strike.

In 1963/64 the AMBER light began to shine all too brightly and Infantry Brigades woke up to the dangers ahead.

Whilst efforts began, albeit somewhat meagrely, to increase the cross-posting and thereby to try to balance the regimental strengths, etc., the Fusilier Brigade set up a comprehensive and representative Committee to investigate the problems of forming a Large Regiment and to make their recommendations accordingly. This they completed early in 1965, after many meetings and considerable discussion and heart-searching.

THE PROBLEMS

Unlike most other Infantry Brigades, our Regimental Areas are very widely dispersed and our Depot is displaced from our main recruiting areas. Straightaway we are faced with widely dispersed RHQs and Regimental Comrades' organisations, dispersed Aid Society/Association problems, dispersed and ethnically differing T.A. and County connections. The Committee found these and other similar problems virtually impossible to rationalise into a cohesive whole that made any real sense.

From all this has emerged the following:—

- a. If we were to reorganise as a *genuinely* constituted Large Regiment, it would be necessary to 'draw a line through the books' and begin afresh.
- b. Four separate RHQs would still be required and probably need reinforcing in order to cope with additional responsibilities vis-à-vis TA/AVR, Funds and Regimental Comrades' Associations, etc.
- c. Because of our dispersed regimental areas, our problems are obviously exceptional and this has now been officially recognized.
- d. If the Fusilier Brigade, as at present organised, can meet all the demands made upon it by the Army Department without fuss and without any major exceptions, then the need to take the final plunge into the Large Regiment would appear to become redundant. This is surely the best solution and one that is within our reach, provided each Regiment in the Brigade is determined to play its full and co-operative part.
- e. On the other hand, we must also be prepared to have the Large Regiment possibly forced upon us and therefore to have plans to meet this distasteful eventuality. This was deeply discussed by the Brigade Committee, who in general terms produced the following:—
 1. That in such an event it would be anomalous and inhibiting to attempt to retain and nurture the old individual regimental traditions

- and titles. Such a move would require a clean break from the past and a fresh start for everyone. Only this method could produce a genuine and uninhibited Large Regiment.
2. That the regimental customs and traditions would be mingled and shared out to all battalions. There would be one Title and one Hackle for all.
 3. That the example set today by two other Infantry Brigades of their idea of the Large Regiment does not really represent the true definition of such a regiment. That despite their new Titles, there is little difference between their new constitution and what is going on today in the Fusilier Brigade. This is not always appreciated by those that favour following this example.

COUNCIL OF COLONELS POLICY STATEMENT

This I like to think reflects the feelings of the Fusilier Brigade Committee, who in turn I believe reflected regimental opinions to the best of their ability. Since when the Council of Colonels has met several times to discuss the matter and eventually to produce their Policy Statement. I would like to emphasise some important points contained in this statement:—

- a. It begins by reiterating a previous statement that our main policy is to continue to "evolve" towards a Large Regiment (so called). In other words, to try to meet all the demands made upon us for flexibility/cross-posting, etc., like we are endeavouring to do today, BUT to achieve this, if possible, without having to lose our Regimental identities/traditions, etc.
- b. Only if we fail to achieve a, do we see ourselves possibly forced into the final step, and in this event, we have demonstrated in our Statement, both to Higher Authority and to you, that we consider the clean break with the past the only genuine solution. We do not believe any compromise solution exists in between that which we are doing at present and the clean break. The decision to force us into it cannot surely be taken lightly?
- c. If the clean break is forced upon us, then we have suggested a selection of Titles and Hackles as food for thought and for decision nearer the time.

CURRENT SITUATION AND THE FUTURE

I am happy to state with reasonable confidence that at present there appears to be no immediate danger of the Fusilier Brigade being arbitrarily forced to take these final and irrevocable steps into a faceless regimental set-up. The CGS indicated as much recently at the Infantry Conference.

At present we are holding our own and are providing a fairly reasonable measure of the desired flexibility. We do now cross-post all ranks where necessary. Our Brigade recruiting figures compare favourably with other brigades and we maintain a high place on the Army Recruiting League Table. With the exception of the Hackle we are (or should be) all dressed alike. The Hackle retains our identities for us.

We can, therefore, be said as a Brigade to be "evolving" in accordance with our Policy. BUT here I sound a note of warning.

There is absolutely no room for complacency. We must keep our "evolution" constantly under review. We must not allow a chink to appear in our armour for the Corps of Infantry lobbyist to exploit. We must constantly remember that we can in effect meet all the demands made and to be made upon us, provided that we really put our minds to it, keep our loyalties as soundly balanced as possible and realise that the process is not always painless.

There are certainly going to be major problems to be overcome. Some are already with us and could well get worse. In particular our recruiting of men and officers. In this age of full employment and expansion in the North-East our recruiting figures could well deteriorate. They cannot at present be said to be wholly satisfactory and consistent. Nor can we say that we are retaining enough men for extended service.

The Army is short of officers and the Fusilier Brigade reflects this shortage. Everyone who reads this can probably do more to improve this situation. The Army today offers a variety of Regular Commissions, which should suit all tastes and also the need to fill the gap in maturing left by the absence of National Service.

There is I believe an additional danger. Should the Fusilier Brigade show signs of continuing manpower and officer difficulties, it might be accused of being a "non-viable" Brigade. Our widely dispersed regimental areas lend weight to this sort of argument. We must somehow prevent this line of thought gaining credence.

My last warning is to the younger generation. Do not carelessly throw away infantry traditions and your regimental identity as being outdated and in order to make way for "Progress". These traditions have sustained the Infantry over hundreds of years and more so in this century in two World Wars when things were tough, particularly for Infantry. In any kind of battle both now and in the future, it will always be tough for Infantry. So make doubly sure that you understand fully what constitutes real progress before you write-off regimental traditions and titles.

CONCLUSION

For myself I sincerely believe that, as a Regiment and as a Fusilier Brigade, we can meet the demands to be made upon us without having to lose our identities and traditions. I have attempted to expose the challenge that faces us. It is up to everyone to meet it head on in the knowledge that success can be achieved and thereafter maintained.

BELGIUM, 12 MAY, 1940. "ALL QUIET . . ."

The War Diary of the 2nd Battalion, in the neat and readable handwriting of Major H. R. M. Wilkin, then Adjutant, has the following:—

"MERCHEM, 12th May —

1430 hrs. Information received that 2 Scout platoons 4th Bn NF to be attached. These to form the mobile reserve in the forward area and will be billeted at OSSEL 5668.

1930 hrs. No. 12 Scout Pl arrived from 4th Bn.

2015 hrs. No. 11 Scout Pl arrived.

All quiet during the night."

Now it happens that the Chateau at Ossel, some 7 miles from Brussels, belonged to the parents of a small boy aged 13, and as small boys aged 13 do, this one acquired a shoulder title of one of the soldiers of 4 NF. He has it to this day, and when he, now Major Andre

Anne de Molina of 1st Belgian Parachute Battalion, found himself training at Otterburn, Northumberland, this month, what more natural than that he should come to RHQ to try and trace the owner.

Alas, it is unlikely that we shall get nearer than a Fusilier of 11 or 12 Scout Pls 4 NF. But if anyone does remember giving a small boy aged about 13 one of his shoulder titles at the Chateau of Ossel, near Brussels on 12th or 13th May, 1940, it is unlikely that he will get it back, but he will get the badge of 1st Belgian Parachute Bn. in fair swap, with the compliments of Major A. A. de Molina. It was some time and some way off, we think, before Major Wilkin could again add to his War Diary, "All quiet during the night."

RECRUITING

ENLISTMENTS FOR MARCH, 1966

Fus. Glancey, J.	—	6/6 years.	Newcastle
Fus. Taylor, V. C.	—	22/6 years.	Newcastle
Fus. Spencer, J. R.	—	22/9 years.	Newcastle
Fus. McDermott, J.	—	22/6 years.	Newcastle
Fus. Ross, R.	—	22/6 years.	Newcastle
Fus. Chapman, J. R.	—	6/6 years.	West Hartlepool
Fus. Gordon, E. L.	—	6/6 years.	Coventry
Fus. Weadley, T. H.	—	Rejoined —	York Ex Reserve

REGIMENTAL DIARY OF EVENTS — 1966

MAY

7 — Newcastle Branch C.A. Dinner Dance.

JUNE

1 — 1st Bn. start arriving Kirton-in-Lindsey ex-Lemgo.
25 — 149 Bde. T.A. Camp, Otterburn, to 9 July (all 3 T.A. Bns.).

JULY

7 to

9 — Fusilier Bde. Cricket, Hurlingham Club.
8 — Regimental Dinner, Hyde Park Hotel.

AUGUST

2 to

6 — Tyneside Summer Festival. Newcastle Army Week Recruiting Displays.

5 to

17 — 1st Bn. at Otterburn.

6 to

7 — Festing Cup Shooting Competition. T.A. Bns. v. L.R.B.R., Ponteland.

SEPTEMBER

Mid — 1st Bn. leave for Aden.

24 — London Area C.A. Social and Smoker, Feathers Hotel.

OCTOBER

2 — 149 Bde. Golf Meeting — Cockermouth.

8 — Regimental Re-union, Newcastle upon Tyne.
(Change of date.)

1st Battalion

Lemgo,
Germany.
March, 1966.

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

March came in like the proverbial lamb and would appear to be intent on going out like a polar bear. We have had everything in the past few days from snow to sleet and thunder. However, this has not prevented us from achieving our two major ambitions for the month; the drill competition and the commencement of our annual vehicle and equipment inspection.

The drill competition went off extremely well under the eagle eyes of Capt. Kelly, 3DG, who was the turn-out judge, and R.S.M. Oakman and two C.S.M.s of the Royal Fusiliers, who judged the drill. X Company were firm favourites and ran true to form to win by 17 points from Z Company. Results were as follows:—

X Company 802 — Z Company 685
Y Company 682 — HQ Company 666

This is the third year running that X Company have won the cup, a very commendable effort by C.S.M. Pringle and his drill squad.

Our annual vehicle inspection is also in full swing; since this is to be the final vehicle inspection before our handover to the Sussex, much oil both midnight and lubricating has been used, whether our LAD agrees that it has been used in the right places, we shall soon find out.

On the 21st of March we welcomed Capt. Campbell, complete with family in a caravan, from the Lancashire Fusiliers. He is posted to H.Q. Company to take over from Major Tarmey. Major Tarmey departs soon for Kirton-in-Lindsey to take up his new appointment as Unit Families Officer.

W COMPANY (Capt. C. R. W. WYSOCK-WRIGHT)

March has been a reasonably busy month for Company Headquarters as we have run two cadres for Headquarters Company, one cadre for rifle companies and another for the Fusiliers who have recently joined from the Depot, the Royal Fusiliers and the Boys' School. All have provided interest and kept us busy. We are grateful for the help that we have received from Cpl. Teasdale on these cadres.

The LAD have been preparing themselves to receive the Battalion's vehicles for the annual central inspection; we trust that they will play the game.

On the 4th of the month we had a splendid party in the club to say farewell to Lemgo and at the same time to say farewell to W.O.I Tinsley, who has left us on commissioning. All ranks would like to thank him for his noble efforts over the past two years and wish him the very best of luck for the future. At the same time we would like to congratulate W.O.II Turner on his promotion to A.S.M.

In the recent Football League we have not been very successful, having been soundly beaten by both H.Q. and Y Companies.

Due to the quite extraordinary weather the ski-ing at Bad Tolz has had to finish early and we have unfortunately missed our change to go.

We welcome to the Company L/Cpl. Keller and trust that his stay, although short, will be enjoyable.

Stop Press: Fus. Roberts has just swum the Lemgo River and thus claims the record for the first Fusilier to do so.

X COMPANY (Major C. E. WELCH)

As St. George's Day draws closer, the Company has suddenly realised that drill is once again a major sport. The C.S.M. has been hard at work putting the team through its paces and some very creditable results have been obtained. One can never be sure that some unexpected disaster won't happen on the day, but we are looking forward hopefully to the competition. The Company drivers have been working hard in preparation for the CIV and have often been seen working far into the week-end, painting and tightening nuts and bolts. It is a

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Another Parent—" . . . I think it is an extremely good scheme as do the Bank Managers with whom I have discussed it."

A Major in the Royal Signals—"Thank you very much for your two letters and the illustration drawn up for me. I found your answers to all my questions complete and very helpful and am now convinced that this is just what I need to help me with the cost of education for my younger boy . . . I now regret that we had not been introduced when I was planning for my other son . . ."

An Officer in the Royal Marines—"I must say I find this scheme for the payment of school fees most ingenious and thoroughly worth while."

A Director of a National Newspaper—"Thank you very much for all the trouble you have taken in arranging this magnificent policy . . ."

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A Lieutenant Commander, Royal Navy—"I am grateful for the revised illustration . . . and after careful consideration have decided I should like to take out a policy based on it and should be grateful if you would arrange this. I have compared it with other policies and consider your proposals the best I have seen."

A Chartered Engineer—"Your proposal is very interesting—I showed it to my Bank Manager, who was impressed."

A University Professor—"Your suggested scheme for providing for my daughter's education seems to me a very good one and accountant friends whom I have consulted think the same."

A Major in the Scots Guards—"I have in fact studied your plan and others and yours seems to be the best."

An Executive in the Motor Industry—"I am still delighted that I entered into this arrangement as it has made school fees an entirely workable proposition for me."

A Captain in The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders—" . . . thank you very much for the illustration: I have referred it to my solicitors who approve heartily . . ."

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1st BATTALION CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM, 1965/66

Standing (left to right): Fus. Docherty (X), Fus. Hawkins (HQ), L/Cpl. Maliff (Z), Fus. Thompson (Z). Seated (left to right): Fus. Dodd (X), Cpl. Donnelly (X), Fus. Neasham (Z), 2/Lt. Millar, Cpl. Fisher (Y), Fus. Spry (X), Fus. Rawlings (Y).

pity that we shall not have much more chance to use the vehicles after putting so much work into them.

In spite of the pressure of work entailed by the many inspections and competitions, we have nevertheless managed to run a normal training programme, aimed at bringing the individual skills of the rifleman up to a high standard. The M.O. has been running a series of first aid lectures and Cpl. Ganning has provided several bodies to practise on through his periods of unarmed combat. In both subjects a very high standard has been achieved. Map reading, weapon training and basic field engineering are other subjects that have shown good results. With one eye on the future we have practised Internal Security Drills. By the time the platoon had been showered with earth and rotten fruit we considered that the rioters at least were well trained!

A night patrol exercise at Sennelager produced some extremely quiet movement and some very wet Fusiliers, as the objective had been carefully, though unintentionally, sited in the middle of a marsh. In spite of the bad weather everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, even the enemy, who had a habit of walking into their own trip flares.

The Company hockey team won the Battalion Cup and considered that the effort was well worth while after they had celebrated in the Sergeants' Mess with C.S.M. Pringle's own special brand of punch. Many congratulations to the team. In football we have won the first two

matches in the Inter-Company League and have high hopes for future matches.

L/Cpl. Forrest (who types these notes) has been showing great courage, daring and initiative by going rock climbing at the week-ends, together with Mr. Rushton, Cpl. Ganning, Cpl. Richardson and L/Cpl. Nassau.

Mr. Price is now back with us, having spent the winter freezing on Salisbury Plain. Major Welch has left on a course in England and Capt. Earle has returned, deeply sunburned from a ski-ing holiday. We say goodbye to Fus. Evans, who is returning to civilian life and also Fus. Aitchison, who has been posted to the Army Display Team at the School of Infantry. We welcome Sgt. Hempshell and Fusiliers Strachan, Travers and Jackson (078) and hope that they will enjoy their time in the Company.

Y COMPANY (Major M. D. YOUNG, M.C.)

After the Admin. inspection last month the Company has devoted most of its time towards two things, the U.E.I. for our vehicles and the Drill Competition. In between we have managed to do some useful training, including a lot of shooting on the various ranges available, map reading exercises, section tactics and night exercises. Fitness training has had a high priority and unarmed combat has been very useful and exciting.

The U.E.I. passed off successfully and all credit is due to Cpl. Crawford, L/Cpl. Beal and L/Cpl. Cameron and, of course, each driver. All have worked very hard

and with excellent results. In the drill competition we came a close third. The standard throughout the companies was high and the marking very close.

Mr. Daniels has been on an exchange visit to the Danish Army. They apparently expected a Major, but as he came fifth in their cross-country run perhaps it is just as well a Major didn't go! They were certainly impressed by his performance. He says they are very strict in their social etiquette and most polite. He obviously both enjoyed the visit and kept the honour of the Regiment high.

On the 19th March a very successful Company Social was held in the Company Club. We made a profit this time. Our clubs are going to be missed in England, but perhaps they will open again in Aden.

Mr. Thompson has started week-end climbing expeditions which, for Fus. Goule, developed into free fall parachuting! However, no damage done. All good experience, as the Company pundits say. At Easter a party hope to go canoeing and climbing.

We have said goodbye to Cpl. Buxton and Cpl. Wilson and wish them every good fortune in civilian life. Cpl. Marley goes to the Fusilier Brigade Depot, where we hope he will enjoy his tour after the rigours of B.A.O.R. Fus. Rackham and Fus. Crane have joined us from H.Q. and Z Companies respectively. Welcome to the fold.

We are now setting our sights on the Brigade Pentathlon, which comprises of Rugger, Soccer, Basketball, Hockey, Tug-o'-War. We came third last year, so hope to do as well, if not better, this year. About 30-odd teams take part and it is a most enjoyable if exhausting day.

Z COMPANY (Major A. K. C. HILL)

The main event of this month has been the preparation for the annual CIV inspection. Much hard work has been put in by the drivers under the guiding hand of Sgt. Brownlie and we hope that this will bear the fruit that it so richly deserves.

On the 23rd March the Drill Competition is being held in the Battalion and throughout the month, again much practice has taken place. At the time of going to print, a much steadier body of men was found to be parading under the title of Z Company than before all the practice. We hope that it is this that will pay dividends during the competition.

The fitness of the Company has improved 100 per cent. owing to a series of battle P.T., Pentathlon training and route marches. The first march was from a few kilometres east of Blomberg to Hakedal Range at Detmold, where the Company had lunch and rested their weary feet. After a short but excellent lunch provided by that well-known firm of caterers, C.Q.M.S. & Co., we set off on the final leg to Lemgo. We arrived somewhat exhausted and footsore. This brought home to us the need for more marches as the unfitness of the Company had soon become apparent.

A week later we marched to Hakedal Range and then fired the SLR. This time the marching went much better and we were assisted by having spiritual guidance from the Padre, who marched the distance with us. It is amusing and perhaps relevant to note that the following Sunday, the Padre walked to the pulpit with a definite limp! On the Company side the shooting after the march was of an excellent standard.

During the coming month the Brigade Pentathlon once again takes place. Remembering Z Company's excellent past record in this competition, the Company has already started an intensive training programme. It only remains to be seen whether all this will pay dividends on the actual day; anyway, it has provided a welcome relief to the many rigours of Z Company's extensive training programme.

This month has seen a number of changes in the nominal roll of the Company. Fus. Stobbs has left us to try and find his fortune in civilian life, Fus. Ward has been posted to the Depot and Fus. Baxter has gone to show the hackle at the Support Weapons Wing, Netheravon. To all three we wish every success in the future. Sgt. Green has arrived in the Company to replace Sgt. Hempshell, who has gone to find a new life in X Company. We hope Sgt. Green will enjoy his stay with us. We also welcome Fus. Carruthers, who has joined us from H.Q. Company and Fusiliers Barker, Hollywood and Thompson, who have newly arrived from continuation training with the Royal Fusiliers.

H.Q. COMPANY (Major T. TARMEY)

The month of March has been a busy one with cadres, preparation for the CIV and Telecomms Inspections and practice for the Drill Competition.

The Signals Platoon are now running a Bn. cadre for Morse Code which they say will last for three months! W Company ran a cadre for the employed N.C.O.s of Headquarter Company and a few youngsters were seen on the square, such as Cpl. Weddle, Cpl. Atkinson, L/Cpl. Morton, etc. Cpl. Weddle was seen using deaf and dumb language for a couple of days.

Capt. Marr went on leave for a couple of weeks (who said, "to recover from a few booby traps placed under his chair"). The 432s of the Company are now well painted and oiled for the CIV and so are some helpers.

On the lighter side the Company Club held a tramps' ball on the 19th (or was this to save the drivers changing?). Prize of the evening went to Jimmy Saville, complete with wig (Fus. Nelson, Q.M.S.).

Who tripped over his sword belt and swore never to illustrate a bad foot movement?

We are happy to say that T.Q.M.S. Brown is now out of hospital. While on the subject of the B.M.H., sons were born to the wives of Fus. Moore (04) and L/Cpl. Maddison. Congratulations on taking the plunge, Fus. Brown (92) and Moore (20).

Congratulations on promotion go to Fus. Wood (94) on his promotion to L/Cpl. and Cpl. Goodman (R. Sigs.) on his promotion to Sgt. Back into the Company we welcome Fus. Walton from Fus. Bde. Depot to Regt. Police and Fus. Hood (21) from No. 8 A.Y.T. to M.T. Platoon.

Capt. Campbell is now taking over from Major Tarmey. Did Capt. Campbell's arrival have a slight air of safari? We bid farewell to Major and Mrs. Tarmey, who are going to Kirton to prepare quarters, etc., for our arrival. Also to leave us for a short period are the IO (Lt. Robinson), Sgt. Spencer and L/Cpl. Vost, who are pushing ahead to Aden on a language course.

SIGNAL PLATOON (Lt. A. C. STUTCHBURY, R. Sigs.)

There has been much feverish activity preparing for the Annual Tels and CIV Inspections, both of which started at the 22nd March. Every square inch of space in the stores is packed with radio equipment. The two store-



B.A.O.R. RUNNERS-UP BOXING SHIELD
C.S.M.I Kenny and Lt.-Gen. Sir John Mogg, Comd. 1 (BR) Corps.

men, L/Cpl. Coleran and Fus. Hall, have not been seen for some time. It is rumoured that they are lost somewhere beneath a pile of radios.

A number from the Platoon was to have gone ski-ing to Bad Tolz this month, but much to everyone's dismay this was cancelled as there was no snow.

A Morse cadre was started at the beginning of the month and is progressing very satisfactorily. The beginners' class numbers ten Fusiliers and the "experts'" class twenty. We are pleased to see representatives from the companies as well as the Recce Pl. on the cadre.

Sgt. Winpenny, who has just finished full time studying for his first class education, is now attending a three-week Airportability Course.

We welcome Fus. Modral, who has joined the platoon from Troon. L/Cpl. Young has departed to England prior to his release after a long stay with the Signal Platoon.

Sergeants Jamieson and Goodman attended the Annual R.S.O.s Convention and now claim to be experts on Electronic Warfare.

M.T. PLATOON (Captain A. E. ELLIOTT)

It would appear that we have been very idle for the past two months and neglected our public. We will now do our best to right this wrong. Of course, we know full

well that the opening paragraph will be greeted in many cases with "that's what they think".

Having acquitted ourselves well on the Annual Admin. in February, we are now busy trying to get a clean chit on the Annual Vehicle Inspection, which commences on 22nd March. Owing to the handover to the Royal Sussex this is a 100 per cent. inspection. It must be admitted that the vehicles are looking well, although it must also be admitted that every time someone requests a truck the answer is NO. One job at a time. Fortunately all departments have helped in keeping transport requirements to a minimum.

In between the two inspections the M.T.O. managed eight days' ski-ing at Bad Tolz, lack of snow prevented him enjoying a full fortnight.

Since the start of the New Year the following have attended upgrading courses:— Driver B.III to B.II (all passed easily): L/Cpls. Wilson and White, Fusiliers Hutchinson, Lewis (55), Moore, Williams, Siddle and Hart.

L/Cpl. White, who attended a R.C.T. course, passed top of the class of 17, a very commendable effort.

It has been unanimously decided that the next time we find L/Cpl. Joe Richards asleep in the staff car we will lock the garage doors for the night. We will also ensure that he is denied the use of the car heater!

We welcome the return of Fus. Hood to the platoon. He has rejoined us after a two-year spell with the Recruiting Team in Newcastle.

A few days ago we said farewell to Fus. Williams, who has been medically evacuated to Woolwich Hospital after a civilian traffic accident.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT — TRUE OR FALSE

1. I knocked a man over, he admitted that it was his fault as he had been knocked over before.
2. I collided with a stationary tree.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS (R.S.M. FOREST)

Despite loads of activity within companies and departments the past month for us has been comparatively quiet.

We have continued to hold our weekly socials and we also found time to have a farewell dinner. The dinner was held to mark the departure of A.S.M. B. Tinsley (R.E.M.E.) who leaves us for better things (commissioning). The R.S.M. thanked A.S.M. Tinsley for all he had done for the Battalion in this mechanical era and presented him with a canteen of cutlery. A.S.M. Tinsley expressed his thanks; in return he presented the Mess with a plaque bearing the R.E.M.E. badge and motto. We wish the A.S.M. good luck in his new career. After the dinner the R.S.M. called on Sgt. Grey to render a well-known Northumbrian folk song. Sgt. Grey failed to attain the required standard and was made to sit with the colonials.

Preparation for the U.E.I. is in full swing and Sgts. Whyte, Bell and Brownlie often burn the "midnight oil" over documents and pots of paint. The finishing touches to the Inter-Company Drill Competition are taking place and great speculation is taking place as to this year's winners (sorry, no forecasts).

Sgt. Spencer (Int. Sgt.) has left us for a language course in Aden; he finally managed to get his membership to U.N.C.L.E. before catching the plane. He will no doubt have some stories to tell when we see him again at Kirton in August.

We close this month with a question, "Who was the C.S.M. who, having executed the perfect right turn, tripped over his sword belt?"

A STAFF OFFICER'S AIDE MEMOIRE

We live in an age where the military cliché is almost a status symbol. The following list, with explanatory notes, was compiled by the R.S.O. and I.O. during 'O' Groups and wireless watches on exercises.

Some are direct quotations from particular sources (not disclosed), but all may be useful to those who wish to display an erudite knowledge of military affairs, particularly staff officers.

1. Covering the front with eyes. A manoeuvre to ensure that the front seats at conferences are filled.
2. Making good use of the ground. Crop rotation.
3. Leaning up against the enemy. A position adopted by forward troops overcome by exhaustion or battle neurosis.
4. Probing to find the flanks. A game played by subalterns in BFES Messes.
5. One foot on the ground. A subtle medical jest following treatment for injuries such as athlete's foot.
6. Fighting patrols. Combat kit.
7. Coming up on air. Reclining on a Lilo whilst it is being inflated.
8. Relief in the line. Deep trench latrines.
9. Escalating through a time frame. Z Coy. conferences.

10. Hygiene attraction.	Beautiful girl in a bubble bath.
11. Non implemented increment.	Unarmed draft.
12. Soft skinned vehicle.	Bubble car.
13. Bouncing a bridge.	Simple test carried out by sappers immediately after construction.
14. Prior to.	2 i/c of a monastery.
15. The men have all got their greatcoats.	Unheard of situation in the Fifth of Foot.
16. Flexibility.	A substitute for a properly thought out plan.
17. Defeat in detail.	Put on guard.
18. Containing roll.	NAAFI expression to describe the area surrounding a small expensive portion of ham, cheese or sausage.
19. Being put in the picture.	Being submerged under a mass of useless information.
20. Fluid situation.	Overflowing bath.
21. Sharp as a sponge.	Provost Sgt. taking a bath.
22. Final computation.	How the Rugby team should have won the Army Cup.
23. Financial inefficiency must be ruthlessly eradicated.	The paymaster must be assassinated.
24. First tank light.	Quartermaster language for the First Light tank in a Regiment.

4th/5th Battalion

Walker on Tyne.
March, 1966.

The beginning of March saw the completion of our week-end cadres and the start of more intensive outdoor week-end activity.

During the week-end 5th/6th March a Battalion indoor signal exercise was held at Walker and there was a good turn out of Officers.

W, X, Y and Z Companies have all held most successful training week-ends with extremely good attendances. A lot of useful training has been achieved which was of tremendous value to the young recruits of the Rifle Companies.

H.Q. Coy. had a successful instruction week-end at Walker Drill Hall during the week-end 12th/13th March, 1966, which was mainly attended by Recce Pl., Signals Pl. and the Admin. Pl.

Another Administrative Inspection is now behind us and from all accounts the Battalion acquitted itself well. However, we hope to publish the result of the inspection in the next issue of our Notes.

Preparations are in full swing for St. George's Weekend. The Officers are holding their Annual St. George's Dinner at the County Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne, on Saturday, 23rd April, 1966.

The Parade for all members of the Battalion will be held at Walker. The Church Service being held in Walker Parish Church, the parade having moved off from Walker Drill Hall at 1030 hrs. A strong turnout of all ranks is expected. A more detailed report of these and other functions will appear in next month's issue of the *Gazette*.

Recruiting in March did not quite live up to expectations and certainly was nowhere near the record number as in previous years. However, we did well to hold our own over the month.

The Planners of Walker are at it again. Ex-members and friends of the Battalion who have not visited us at Walker for a while will find a big change on their next visit. A start on the new shopping centre has at last been made and will be completed by late 1967. By all accounts Walker is certainly going to be "with it" in the near future. Dare we hope that these progressive, technological and forward looking planners will not completely destroy the character of Walker. Time alone will tell.

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X COMPANY (Major R. W. MORDUE)

As usual the month of February was largely devoted to preparation for the Annual Administrative Inspection. All was in order by Tuesday, 8th March, and the Brigadier was duly impressed. The report received was excellent and special mention must be made of the hard work of L/Cpl. Olver and L/Cpl. Howe, our two storemen.

The Company entered a team for the 7th Bn. night march competition during the 12th/13th March, and considering the last minute changes to the team put up a magnificent performance. On a fine night conditions were near perfect for marching and fast times were recorded. The team came 9th in a time of 4 hrs. 44 mins. for 15-mile route. The team, led by Mr. Powell, included:—

C/Sgt. Shepherd.
L/Cpl. Olver.
L/Cpl. Laidlow.
Fus. Walker.
Fus. Armstrong.
Fus. Gair.
Fus. Watson.

Particularly we note the fine efforts of L/Cpl. Laidlow and L/Cpl. Olver, both "pressed" into the team at the last moment and of new recruits Fus. Gair and Fus. W. Watson. We send our condolences to Fus. Gallant, who after training hard for this event, broke his leg two days before the competition.

In the Bn. small bore competition the Company are at present leading the table with 4 victories from 4 matches. In match 4, X Coy. beat H.Q. Coy. and the highest scorer was C.S.M. W.O.II Brown with 96. The top scoring young soldier was Fus. Gallant with 83.

On the training side we have two excellent week-ends in the offing. Sunday, March 20th, will be a Weapon Training circus, and on 2nd/3rd April we have a Patrolling and Map reading exercise in the Hexham area.

Finally some belated congratulations to Mr. Powell on the confirmation of his commission and to W.O.II Lyons, L/Cpl. Pope and Fus. Nicholson, and their respective wives, all of whom have recently had additions to their families.

6th (City) Battalion

Newcastle upon Tyne.
March, 1966.

OFFICER PLOT
(As at 1st January, 1966)

Bn HQ	
CO	— Lt. Col. R. E. O. Waddell, TD
2IC	— Major C. S. Todd, TD
Trg Maj	— Major A. M. H. Scott
Adjt/PSO	— Major C. J. Caines, TD
TA Adjt	— Capt. R. M. Mullens
QM	— Capt. (QM) W. Bowman, MBE
IO	— Lt. D. Scott Phillips
RSM	— WOII W. M. Beattie
ORQMS	— WOII T. W. Gummet
'A' Coy	
Coy Comd	— Capt. J. D. Kirkham
2IC	— Capt. J. R. Kirkup
Pl Comd	— 2Lt. N. W. R. Scroggie
Pl Comd	— 2Lt. J. A. Wood
'B' Coy	
Coy Comd	— Capt. G. W. Ridley
2IC	— Capt. S. D. Rutherford
Pl Comd	— 2Lt. M. J. Hyslop
Pl Comd	— 2Lt. C. A. Scott
Pl Comd	— 2Lt. R. G. Renwick
	2Lt. R. A. N. McKechnie
SP Coy	
Coy Comd	— Capt. G. W. Meikle
2IC	— Capt. H. R. Anderson

RSO	— Lt. A. G. Rutherford
OC Recce	— Lt. S. A. Robinson
OC Mor	— Lt. H. R. Mould
OC A/Tk	— Lt. D. G. Leslie
2IC Mortars	— 2Lt. N. W. Hudson
H.Q. Coy	
Coy Comd	— Major T. H. Ogle
2IC	— Capt. J. Muir
OC Rec Cadre	— 2Lt. M. W. Milburn
Aslt Pnr	— C/Sgt. J. W. Allan
MO	— Major M. L. Fisher, RAMC
UPM	— Major R. E. Young, RAPC
Padre	— CFIV A. C. Beniams, RAChD
Unposted	
Capt. J. L. Smith	
Capt. M. A. Swallow	
Lt. J. A. Cooper	
TD.	

The 1966 training season is now well under way and the Drill Hall comparatively busy on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Basket Ball in local gymnasium is proving popular. Companies have been concentrating at week-ends on outdoor work with the emphasis on map reading, radio communications and adventure type training. There have been several forays to the Lake District which everyone has enjoyed and from which a great deal of training benefit has been obtained.

The Officers and some of the Warrant Officers suffered a searching map reading exercise labelled "Ice Breaker." Stoically this was run as a form of motor rally, the reconnaissances for which were conducted in thick snow and under icy road conditions.

Officers assembled in and spent the night at the Blue Bell, Belford, on the 12th March. The Blue Bell is indeed a pleasant place to start an exercise. From there "competitors" drove on Sunday morning to the disused airfield near Major Barrett's home at Tuggal Hall. Tuggal Hall was the first check point and was not in Beadnell (as some readers had supposed). From here activities were directed to North Sunderland, Bamburgh, Luker, Eglingham, Denwick, Rock, the old kennels at Greenrig, Lesbury, Howick and back to the old airfield.

The exercise was calculated to try the patience and fortitude of everyone, including the large control staff from members of the Sergeants' Mess, for whose assistance we were enormously grateful.

Everyone now remembers clearly whether to add to mag or subtract from it and how to crash net on HF set. Driving skills were tested to the full but it was unfortunate that the water level in the River Aln had fallen too low to make the crossing a serious hazard.

OC Support Company nearly succumbed to exhaust fumes, but we doubt whether a single team was not fuming at one stage or another.

The winners, Capt. G. W. Ridley and 2-Lt. M. J. Hyslop, walked off with the prize money, but it was a close finish. We are planning a similar but much more difficult exercise in September.

We are delighted to be able to record in this issue the return home from a painful operation in Edinburgh of the Honorary Colonel, Col. P. Gardner, T.D., D.L., and wish him a very quick and complete recovery.

A COMPANY

We welcome Recruit Cadre on their transfer to us from H.Q. Company and hope that their stay with us will be profitable and at the same time enjoyable.

We also welcome Capt. John Kirkup, Mr. Angus Wood and Mr. Mike Milburn, who come to us from

Recruit Cadre with Sgts. Cole, Clarke, Sutherland and Knightley.

At the moment we are learning basic training in the form of interesting lectures in the Drill Hall. Later on, before camp, we hope to have some week-ends together to get to know each other and put our knowledge into practice.

The new Company org. is as follows:—

OC	— Capt. J. D. Kirkham
2IC	— Capt. J. R. Kirkup
PSI	— WOII Horrocks, J.
CSM	— WOII Gould, W.
CQMS	— C/Sgt. Goodwin, G.
Pl Comd	Pl Sgt
2-Lt. N. W. R. Scroggie	Sgt. Sutherland, V.
2-Lt. M. W. Milburn	Sgt. Clark, G.
2-Lt. J. A. Wood	Sgt. Knightley, E.
Sgt. Cole, T. W.	Sgt. Slipper, G. H.

Our recruiting is still gathering momentum, already this training period we have had six recruits.

We wish Capt. David Kirkham all the very best for a happy marriage.

B COMPANY

B Company week-end training started off in tremendous form on the 5th/6th March with Exercise "Long One".

After being revived from the effects of the journey over to the Lakes, the Company set off by sections to cover an unknown course across streams, mountains and bogs. The aim of the exercise was to complete the course faster than a team of "experts" (Officers and N.C.O.s) and points were awarded to the fastest team. All teams showed a very high degree of map reading and fitness and Cpl. Ellis's section (SP Pl) came nearest to beating the experts.

By strange coincidence the final check point was only an arm's length away from the bar of a very hospitable McEwans House. The refreshment was well earned and obviously enjoyed by all and by 10.30 p.m. the B Coy. Choir, ably led by Cpl. Graham, K. W., were demonstrating their vocal talents to the appreciation of the locals.

The gentle tones of C.S.M. Tait awoke the 50 sleeping beauties far too early and after a satisfying breakfast everyone was bashing on into the wilds on the second phase of the exercise. Again the experts pushed along by Cpl. Madden set an unbeatable time, but Cpl. Peacock's section were very close behind. The map reading again was first class, not one section missed a control point and special mention here must be made of Fus. Handy and his signallers who maintained contact with control throughout the exercise and did not make one error the whole week-end. Well done, the signallers!

B Company proved itself on this week-end, the map reading is improving and the evenings in the gymnasium has done wonders for our fitness!! Company spirit is now first class. Keep it up!

Congratulations to Fus. Lazzari on the occasion of his marriage.

7th Battalion

Alnwick.
March, 1966.

A large gathering of Officers of the Battalion and their guests assembled at Alnwick on the occasion of the final Mess Dinner Night of the Winter Season.

Selections of pipe music were provided by Pipers of the Battalion after the Loyal Toast.

Amongst those present were Major General R. Keith-Jones, M.B.E., M.C. (Commander, 50 (N) Inf. Div.), Brig.

D. Wilson, M.B.E., M.C. (Commander, 149 Inf. Bde.), Brig. L. Bolton, D.S.O. (former Secretary of Northumberland T. & A.F.A.).

Former C.O.s of the 7th Bn. who attended were Col. J. I. M. Smail, O.B.E., M.C., T.D. and Lt.-Col. R. M. Pratt, D.S.O., of R.H.Q., Fenham Barracks. Col. Smail is now Deputy Commander, 149 Inf. Bde.

Former Training Majors present were Lt.-Col. J. Webb (now commanding 4th/5th Bn. R.N.F. (T.A.)), Major S. A. S. Philips and Major J. S. Baty.

On Sunday, 13th February, Brig. D. Wilson, O.B.E., M.C., Commander, 149 Inf. Bde. (T.A.) presented four members of the Battalion with the General Officer Commanding, 50 (Northumbrian) Division District Commendation Cards. These cards are given to T.A. soldiers who have served the Battalion for not less than 15 years and during that time given more than ordinary loyalty, service and devotion to their duties.

The four members were W.O.II G. Hamilton, W.O.II W. Gattens, C/Sgt. D. Dundas and Cpl. C. Mitchelson. The latter indeed has had 26 years with 7 R.N.F., starting before the war in 1934.

The Brigadier spoke to each one and gave them a message of congratulations from the G.O.C. along with his own. At the same time he talked to some more junior soldiers who were present and studying on a course before becoming junior N.C.O.s. These dozen soldiers are spending the next three week-ends learning the business of being a N.C.O., how to instruct, how to use a radio and how to maintain discipline. The course is short, but very practical. There are lectures and talks but these are kept to the minimum and the maximum activity by the students is required. Next week-end each one has to teach a lesson of 20 minutes' length, on any subject he likes; we may well hear, "How to sink a pint in 4 secs., or possibly some more abstruse subject.

W.O.II De-Lay, our Berwick P.S.I., is in charge of the teaching methods, and W.O.II McArdle, from Alnwick, the radio. R.S.M. Hoare deals with discipline and how to deal with unruly soldiers on pay night.

The penultimate Officers' Mess Dinner Night of the 1965/1966 Winter Season was held in the Officers' Mess on 16th February.

The Guests included Canon W. T. Hinkley, M.A., T.D., a former S.C.F. of 50th Division, now of St. Michael's, Alnwick, and Major A. M. H. Scott, Training Major, 6 Bn. R.N.F.

Honorary Members present were Lt.-Col. R. M. Pratt, D.S.O., and Major J. D. Buckle.

On Saturday night the Queen's Head at Glanton did a bit of extra trade. On it converged about 120 Terriers, intent on a hard night's walk but needing a little something to help them on the way.

The Bn. had organised a night march race, starting at Glanton and finishing 11 crow miles away in the Range area beyond Holystone. Teams of eight from all the Cos. and also 4/5 R.N.F. and 149 Bde. H.Q. in Newcastle had entered.

The cooks had a brew of tea waiting in the square for those who didn't fancy a pint lying cold on the stomach while walking and every 15 minutes the Training Major and R.S.M. set a team on their way. Two ambushes were laid in the area of the two main bridges over the Coquet at Hepple and Holystone, to encourage the teams to get their feet wet wading the river or suffer a penalty of 30 minutes being added to their time.



7th BATTALION COMMENDATION CARDS PRESENTED

From left to right: W.O.II G. Hamilton, W.O.II W. Gattens, C/Sgt. D. Dundas, Cpl. C. Mitchelson.



7th BATTALION COMMENDATION CARDS PRESENTED

From left to right: R.S.M. J. Hoare, Brig. R. D. Wilson, O.B.E., M.C., Lt.-Col. W. C. H. Sanderson, T.D., Major C. J. C. Humfrey, W.O.II G. Hamilton.



7th BATTALION COMMENDATION CARDS PRESENTED

From left to right: W.O.II G. Hamilton, W.O.II W. Gattens, C/Sgt. D. Dundas, Cpl. C. Mitchelson.



7th BATTALION COMMENDATION CARDS PRESENTED

From left to right: R.S.M. J. Hoare, Brig. R. D. Wilson, O.B.E., M.C., Lt.-Col. W. C. H. Sanderson, T.D., Major C. J. C. Humfrey, W.O.II G. Hamilton.

At the finish point C/Sgt. Strang and the cooks from Berwick were waiting with hot soup and transport to carry the weary travellers on to Redesdale camp and bed.

Soon after 11.30 p.m. the marchers began to reach the finish. First to arrive but not overall winners was a team from B Coy, Ashington, led by Sgt. Smith in a time of 3 hrs. 40 mins., en route they'd overtaken two teams who'd started earlier. Soon after them came the eventual winners, H.Q. Coy. of Alnwick, in 3 hrs. 33 mins. and third were C Coy., of Amble, in 3 hrs. 44 mins. Of the 114 men who marched only one failed to finish and several teams finished running or singing. As the prize money for the winners was £21 12s. 0d., split 8 ways it was worth the effort.

Not least of the success of the competition was the work by cooks, drivers, signallers and others who laid it on and waited at the finishing point, and if you think it wasn't cold that night waiting on the Otterburn moors from 5 p.m. until 4 a.m. just ask Fus. Wilcox of H.Q. Coy., Alnwick.

Mention must be made of B Company's newest recruit, Fus. Cowie, of Blyth, who walked into the drill hall at 2 p.m. on Saturday, asking about how to join. He was signed on, sworn in, issued with boots and 8 hours later was on the walk and completed the course.

(If you feel like hiking, there's still time to join the T.A.).

The winning team consisted of 2-Lt. Hind, C/Sgt. Dundas, Cpl. Mitchison, L/Cpl. Davidson, L/Cpl. Steel, Cpl. Baston, Fus. Crisp and Fus. Thompson, J.

H.Q. COMPANY

A march across strange country on a dark night racing against the clock would not be considered a very attractive way to spend a Saturday night, but this is exactly what 13 teams of Territorial soldiers did recently. Each team consisted of 8 men and they were started from the square at Glanton at $\frac{1}{4}$ -hour intervals with a map, a compass and the stars to get them to a point beyond Holystone, on the edge of Otterburn Moors.

The winning team was H.Q. 7 R.N.F. (Alnwick), who completed the course in 3 hours 33 minutes. The team consisted of 2-Lt. R. C. S. Hind (Capt.), C/Sgt. D. Dundas, Cpl. J. Mitchison, L/Cpl. A. Steel, L/Cpl. N. Davidson, Cpl. Baston, Fus. J. Thompson and Fus. Crisp. The reasons for their win were probably that they had trained since November and that they waded straight through the Coquet (aided by plastic fertilizer bags—but this didn't stop L/Cpl. Steel attempting to drown himself in the attempt!). Enemy had been posted at various positions, but they failed to intercept the intrepid Alnwick men. After a warming mug of soup at the finishing point the teams were taken to Redesdale Camp to spend the remaining hours of the night in comfort!

A second team from H.Q. Coy. 7 R.N.F. consisting of 2-Lt. J. Forrest, R.A.P.C., L/Cpl. Harper, L/Cpl. Wilcox, W., Fus. Cooper, McLean, Dixon, Thompson, B. and Dodds, put up a very creditable performance and came 6th out of 13. The number of Junior Drummers in this team was an encouraging sign.

SOLDIERS CHORUS

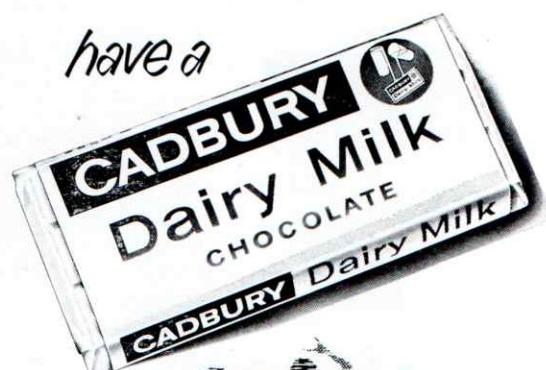
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LONDON AREA

2, Farley Court,
Melbury Road, W.14.
22nd March, 1966.

ASSORTED ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

THE A.G.M. In this issue "R.C.D." has given us a full account of the Annual General Meeting, held on 19th February, and the Committee Meeting which preceded it. I am therefore hoping that this annual article, primarily intended for those Members who are unable to attend our Reunions, may well be shorter than usual.

THE TEAM. Here is the Association's team for 1966:—
Patrons: Major-Gen. R. E. T. St. John, C.B., M.C.

Field Marshal Sir Francis W. Festing, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., D.L.

Past President: Lt.-Col. J. O. Byrne, M.C.

Past President and Hon. Treasurer: Col. F. H. Butterfield, O.B.E.

Past President: Lt.-Col. C. W. Holdsworth Hunt.

President: Brig. G. P. Hobbs, C.B.E.

Hon. Chaplains: The Rev. J. Bullock. The Rev. J. C. Worthington.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. W. C. Edgar, 92 Ramsgill Drive, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex (Tel. SEVen Kings 7424).

Deputy Hon. Secretary:

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. R. Myers, M.M.

Assistant Master of Ceremonies:

Sub-Editorial Staff, *St. George's Gazette*:

Sub-Editor: Lt.-Col. C. W. Holdsworth Hunt.

Assistant Sub-Editor (Officers' News):

Deputy Assistant Sub-Editor (Officers' News):

Assistant Sub-Editor (Fusiliers' News): Mr. R. C. Denness, M.B.E.

Deputy Assistant Sub-Editor (Fusiliers' News): Capt. C. G. M. Morrison.

Compiler Officer Members' List: Major J. W. M. Purcell, M.B.E., 60 Appleton Road, Cumnor (Tel. 2693), Oxford, Oxon.

Deputy Compiler Officer Members' List: Capt. C. G. M. Morrison.

Committee: Mr. H. Ingledew (Chairman), Mrs. Ahronson (representing Lady Members, Fusiliers), Lt.-Col. J. H. G. Deighton, M.B.E., M.C. (representing Serving Officer Members), Mr. A. E. Fennimore, Lt.-Col. C. W. Holdsworth Hunt (representing Retired Regular Officer Members and *St. George's Gazette*), Messrs. W. Dumbreck, A. Ives, J. L. Loftus, R. Myers, M.M., and T. Potts. There is a vacancy on the Committee for an Officer to represent Retired Non-Regular Officer Members. Ex-Officio: Capt. A. F. P. Hubbard (Fusilier Brigade Depot).

Our "1966 Team" includes our Hon. Members: Capt. F. Bingham, Capt. N. King (Hon. Press Officer), and Mr. W. Hodge (Auditor).

As President, London Area, Brig. G. P. Hobbs is

London Region's representative to the Regimental Committee.

Mr. W. C. Edgar is the Association's representative to the Regimental Aid Society and the Regimental Association.

Mrs. Kingsley Foster will continue her work in respect of S.S.A.F.A., the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops, the Officers' Families Fund and London Area "Officer Members' Cases."

Our Bankers are Messrs. C. Hoare and Co., and our Auditors are Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co.

ACCOUNTS. Copies of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1965, are due to be forwarded to Members with the notice of St. George's Dance and the Cenotaph Ceremony.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT. The Annual Audit of The Association's Accounts took place on 20th January. It was again carried out by Mr. W. Hodge, as representative of Messrs. Turquand, Youngs & Co. Mr. Hodge announced his intention of retiring at the end of this year but it is hoped to be able to persuade him to continue auditing our accounts.

The pattern of our Accounts continues very much the same from year to year. Our visible income, less donations, remains fairly constant at approximately £200, whereas our expenditure varies between the £230-£250 mark. Against this, we have been fortunate during the last year or two in receiving a few very generous donations. Also, our holding of National Savings Certificates gain in value by approximately £24 per annum. Incidentally, our present Certificates are due to mature (10 years) this year and so a decision will be required as to whether to continue holding them or re-investing.

SPACE. Here is my annual report in the respect. In 1965 London Area's notes occupied 191 columns in *St. George's Gazette*, a decrease of 12½ columns. Over the past 16 years we have averaged 179½ columns p.a., the peak year being 1951 (220½ columns) when 1 Battalion was in Korea.

CXXII SERVICE AND EX-SERVICE SUBJECTS MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE

(Contributed by Mrs. M. W. Booth).

We very much enjoyed our 18 day cruise in the Mediterranean. We had wonderful weather and except for the last two days we had cloudless blue sky and calm sea. We visited Tangier and went ashore with friends. I was surprised to find that part of Africa so mountainous and in the valleys so much vivid green. The usual display of wares on the quayside and we all bargained and came away loaded with some rather nice loot. We left Tangier at night so missed seeing Gib., however we had a good view coming back.

I had never been to Malta. We came in in the early morning and the bright sunshine on the honey coloured buildings, piled up and up to the skyline, made them marvellous. It was surprising how much of the Grand Harbour is left considering the terrible bombing. Andrew's ship, the Hostile, was mined just outside the harbour and he was the last off carrying the ship's cat! We had friends here too, and they took us around the island, and to the ancient city of Medina. We were thrilled with it all.

Our next call was Crete at the port of Heraklion. Crete has a forbidding skyline, bare sharp-pointed hills, but the valleys were full of vines, orange trees, olive trees, and cypress gracefully waving in the pine scented wind.

The sea is a deeper colour than usual, not perhaps wine colour but nearly so. Heraklion is not a large town and not over-tourist visited; though it is not truly the East it smelled like the East and had a fascination all of its own. We went to see the famous Palace of King Minos beneath which is supposed to be the labyrinthine lair of the Minotaur. The Palace was excavated, by Evans I think, in the 80s and there were found the famous frescos of the Cretan Bull game. The Palace was in ruins but has been restored to a large degree and coloured to the original shade. This is liked by some people and very much disliked by others. I think it has been a bit over-done, but it does show how very talented and artistic the people were. The Museum was a marvellous place, the building quite modern and everything beautifully displayed, plenty of room and so much light. We had a good guide, a student, who spoke perfect English and showed each exhibit as if it was her own personal possession. She was so keen we should see it all, the pottery, the heads of enormous bulls, huge double-headed axes, the figurines of the Snake goddesses, gold masks and countless other wonderful things. We were not there nearly long enough. We left the port by the light of a cloudy moon, the bare hills looked stark and sinister, the sea black, this was how it looked in the war when the Germans drove us across the island to the south coast where the sea was shallow and big ships could not come in close so countless over-loaded little boats tried to get away, and so many good men were lost.

We next arrived at the port of Athens. In the early morning sun and the crystal clear air, the shining Greek islands, and the Temple of Sunion high above the sea, were a sight to be remembered. We went on a Cooks tour to Athens and an experience never to be forgotten was to be actually at the Acropolis, to see it all and the wonderful view, with all Athens at one's feet, the mountains away to the north towards Delphi and Mount Parnassus in the blue distance. We toured the city of Athens which is impressive, the Stadium (modern) with an heroic statue at the entrance, everywhere ruined temples and remains of Roman occupation.

The following day another Cooks tour to Mycenae and Corinth. Along the shores of the bay of Salamis we stopped at the Corinth Canal, that feat of engineering, and then on along the dual carriageway road to the ruins of Mycenae which stand on a hill surrounded by mountains on three sides and looking down the steep valley to the Gulf of Corinth. Entering through the famous Lion Gate the conducted tour was shown the shaft graves which contained the Royal burials, including the gold masks which at that date were characteristic. These graves were enclosed by the wall of the first city, later the population increased and another cemetery was made and enclosed by an outer wall. Unfortunately I was not able to go into the ruins as I am too lame to go over rough or stony ground. However the views from such a standpoint were wonderful, across the Gulf of Corinth, a vivid blue, with the Arcadian mountains beyond. In the valley below vineyards and orchards of orange and lemon trees with tall cypresses waving in the wind. The air is so clear you can see a great distance.

We next went to Corinth, the ruins of which were most impressive, the market place surrounded with shops and the raised platform from which St. Paul is said to have preached. The Temple of Apollo's slender honey

coloured columns, though partially ruined were beautiful, and there is a most interesting museum. We went back to the ship at express speed and sailed at 6 p.m.

We now had 4 days at sea, our next port of call being Lisbon. The weather was good, calm sea and lovely sunshine. We cruised along the North coast of Africa. The weather changed as we neared Gibraltar, in fact it rained with us but bright sunshine over the Rock, it stood gaunt and forbidding as ever with a vivid rainbow above it. Once through the Straits the weather improved and along the coast of Spain, to Cape St. Vincent, it was clear and sunny. Later, at night, it blew hard. We came up the Tagus in the early morning and when we got on deck we were already tied up.

Lisbon is a most beautiful city with wide streets and impressive squares, the pavements are mosaic and shaded with trees, high white houses, each flat having a balcony on which grow a profusion of flowers and creepers. Away from the river the streets wind up the very steep hill, getting narrower and narrower to the fortress which stands on the crest of the hill. Crossing the moat and through a series of creeper-covered archways, a wide open space is reached. The view from the ramparts is wonderful, the city at your feet and away out into the country, to the hills of Cintra to the north, the wide estuary and the distant coast line. Across the river, on the low hills, stands an enormous statue of Christ with outstretched arms. This is a War Memorial and it is illuminated at night and looks like a shining cross. Only white birds are in the castle, we saw white guinea fowls, peacocks and pigeons. Descending the cobbled street we passed a famous market, which corresponds to the Portobello Road in London, where goods of every description are bought and sold.

In the suburbs there is a great feeling of progress and prosperity, new building and blocks of flats going up everywhere. Nearing the river again we passed the old Royal Palace, not open to the public, on to the old Riding School which houses a wonderful collection of carved and gilded coaches, Spanish, French, German and Portuguese. The most elegant are French but all, to our eyes, look clumsy and heavy, the large iron shod wheels and the body slung on straps, drawn by a team of six horses.

Leaving the old Riding School we visited the church of St. Jerome which was built by Vasco da Gama on his safe return from America, it has a lovely white front, every inch carved with figures, fruit and flowers. The inside of the church seems almost dark in contrast with the bright sunshine outside. Slender carved pillars reach up to the lofty vaulted roof. The cloisters, added sometime later than the main building, are elaborately decorated and most impressive and peaceful. Crossing the old bridge across the river we followed the opposite bank to the fashionable suburb of Estoril where we had lunch, prawns, Tagus fish with a delicious sauce, cheese and a bottle of wine. We were told that meat in Portugal is bad and tough. Fish is the thing to eat, it certainly was delicious. The view was lovely, the hills of Cintra to the north, the rocky coastline and the vivid blue sea to the west. On the river bank is the Governor's House, a complete miniature fortress.

On returning to the ship we found a few traders on the quay, their wares were attractive but expensive and they would not bargain. Leaving Lisbon at mid-day we passed, on the left bank, an impressive monument shaped

like an enormous ship's prow, Henry the Navigator in the front and crowds pressing up each side all eager to go to the New World.

At 12 noon on a sunny morning we slipped down the river's wide estuary, a wonderful panorama on either side with much small craft, shipping, fussy tugs, ferry boats and some fishing boats very picturesque with their coloured sails and their masts set back at an angle peculiar to Portugal. Past the lighthouse to the sea, and north up the coast towards the Bay of Biscay. We sat on deck and picked out landmarks, with field-glasses, until dark. That night it began to blow and, because we were delayed in Lisbon, the stabilisers were withdrawn to improve our speed. The wind increased to force 9 and with a heavy sea we bobbed about like a cork, so we endured until we reached Southampton, 48 hours late. Of course it was raining but we had all the memories of sunshine and travel to remember. A most enjoyable cruise, and so home by car. (Cruise ship Reine del Mar, Union Castle Line).

A LETTER FROM MALAYSIA

(Contributed by Mrs. D. R. G. Seidl).

H.Q. 17 Div./Malaya District,
G.P.O. Seremban,
Malaysia.

As you can see by the above we've at last arrived in Malaysia and settled into our hiring.

Mandy and I arrived about four weeks ago now after a rather delayed flight (five hours at Abadan Airport), and as there was no house for us we had to stay at the local Club which was a pleasant three weeks holiday for us, but of course Dan was in the throes of his new job. The Club is the hub of the local social life, the food is very good, the library is extensive and up-to-date and one spends a lot of time in the pool! However, when our hiring came up we were only too glad to move in.

We were very lucky and got a very new bungalow, three bedrooms, two bathrooms and an enormous living room with a dining area. L-shaped, the room has folding doors which stretch the whole length and which open up on to a verandah half as big again as the room, with a wide shady roof (bright yellow tiles), so of course the floor space is really party-sized. The garden is very colourful and not too over-grown, this is kept up by a kebun, our part-time gardener, who is young, polite and speaks good English. We have a cheerful young Malay amah whose English is good and she's hard-working and willing to learn new recipes. Her love life is rather complicated I gather.

Seremban is a pretty residential area and, I'm told, cooler than most other places. In fact friends of ours in Singapore are coming for Easter to get away from the heat in Singapore. I must admit it's hot enough for me! It rains once a day rather heavily, but this is welcome as it cools things down a bit. In fact I usually choose to go shop gazing when it's pouring as it's not so tiring. Not that the shopping centre is much to write about. Most nice things are imported which makes them expensive. The range is nothing like Hong Kong, but there are a few local craft shops. Materials are the same price as in England, so is food. Booze isn't much cheaper but

cigarettes are 2/4 for 20 king size. I usually go shopping in the market on Friday morning at 8.30 as it's cooler, to buy seafood, vegetables and flowers. It's quite good fun, terribly smelly and the sights are not always attractive. Mandy, on her only visit said "I don't like this stinky place. It's not like Camberley High Street is it?" There are three cold storage shops who deliver goods twice a day, and the N.A.A.F.I. which I mainly patronize as do the other girls. There are two local cinemas, an old film at the club once a fortnight and one each Sunday evening at the mess, with dinner. Kuala Lumpur is about an hour's drive away which is good for shopping of all sorts, with all the night life which Singapore and Seremban lack. When one tires of the club pool we go to Port Dickson which is half an hour by car, and that really is lovely. Water skiing, sailing and swimming with soft white sand and a breeze. You can't swim at all on the beaches as sea snakes make this dangerous.

There are plenty of cobras, pythons and other horrid sorts of snakes here but thank heaven we haven't had any in the garden or house YET! There is a large toad which pops in every evening from the verandah, but it seems he just likes to stare at us. Everything is so green and lush after Hong Kong. Very pretty. The houses add to the colour as they are nearly all modern and painted in ice cream shades.

We are expecting an addition to the family mid-September, so I'm busy at my lovely new sewing machine making slightly more roomy togs.

Rob started his first term at prep school just before we left so it was a big wrench saying goodbye to him until July, but he loves his new life and this is borne out by the headmaster, which is a relief. The Army sends him out on either a Boeing 707 or a VC 10, twice a year. I wish us mums travelled in such style. Their flight is much shorter too (10 hours), because of the fast aeroplanes and also because they go to Kuala Lumpur instead of Singapore. As soon as he arrives we are off to Penang, for ten days holiday, which I'm told is a lovely place. It's a day's journey from here unless one flies. Internal flying is very cheap here especially with our discount.

Mandy goes to school every morning on the school bus at 8 a.m. and returns at 1 p.m. for the rest of the day. I hope she's learning something there. Dan works from 8 to 4.30 which is a long day in this climate I think, but weekends are free and so is half Wednesday. We've met lots of nice people here and I know we're going to enjoy our stay. Dan has to travel over the whole of the area quite often and I hope to join him whenever possible to see as much of the country as possible.

It's a nice lazy existence, with someone to do the work in the house I can please myself what to do with the day, or just laze in the sun, which is very strong and hot. I blistered my tummy the first time I wore my bikini and it looked like the surface of the moon for a couple of days. When we go to the beach Mandy has to wear a T-shirt even in the water or it would take the skin off her back.

By the way if any of you are passing this way do pop in and see us.

We bought a 1960 clapped out Ford which is bouncy and roomy, which one needs on the local roads, although

the main ones are surprisingly good. It was rather nice as two other families came here to the H.Q. from the course at Staff College so we weren't all on our own to begin with.

I really can't think of any more general news. Do drop me a line if you have time as it's lovely hearing from folks.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

All members are asked to keep this feature alive by sending news of themselves and their families to:— Officer Members:

Other Rank Members:

Mr. R. C. DENNESS, M.B.E.,

No. 10, Deer Rock Road, Camberley (Tel. 3601), Surrey.

OFFICERS, PAST AND PRESENT

TWENTIETH. (Feb.) Please turn to the notes of R.C.D. for an account of last night's Committee Meeting and Annual General Meeting.

Lt.-Col. BYRNE apologising for non-attendance had "rather a nasty cold"; I don't think he's missed an A.G.M. since he became a Joint Vice-President to the late Col. HAWKES.

Major CRAWFORD, who lives at Omagh, wrote to our Hon. Treasurer:—"Thank you very much for your recent up-to-date list of members of the Comrades' Association, London Area. It is always a pleasure to see such an imposing list of distinguished people, and to feel that I too belong to this list, even though I'm a bit 'detached' over here in my native 'bog country.'

"It would be an honour and pleasure to attend your Annual General Meeting on the 19th February, 1966, but alas it will be impossible due to the distances involved. However I will as usual look forward to reports of your Meeting, and one day I hope to attend, but not this year. I hope you have a very good attendance, and a very enjoyable and successful evening. Best wishes to you and all our members now and always."

Mrs. MORGAN, writing to our Hon. Secretary, says:—"I hope you have a successful Meeting and I am very sorry that I am not able to attend. I am constantly impressed by the amount of work you and the very small nucleus do in running the Comrades' Association and I wish you continued success and the best of good luck in the Association."

Lt.-Col. MURTON was prevented from attending the A.G.M. as he was visiting his Constituency at the weekend.

Col. BUTTERFIELD, who had been to the Newbury Race Meeting, met Brig. MARTIN and Majors HOLMES, LLOYD and VAN DER GUCHT at a party last week.

Major CAPSTAFF was shown by Mr. POTTS some literature about the Quaysiders Dinner Club (B. Coy. 9 (S.) Battalion). Mrs. M. C. COWEN brought along her aunt, Miss M. B. COWEN; they were paying their first visit to an A.G.M. Lt.-Col. FLOWER was staying the night in London with one of his married daughters. Brig. HOBBS continues his job hunting. Am hoping Lt.-Col. LEITH MACGREGOR will shortly be visiting me in the City.

Major PURCELL had been very pleased to receive a visit from Brig. CROWDY. Capt. STEPHENS expressed the view that a series in *St. George's Gazette* each dealing briefly with an incident in Regimental History would be particularly welcomed by non-regulars such as himself.

TWENTY-FIRST. Perhaps the best feature of last month's notes, posted to the Editor yesterday, was that such news as I was able to give you of Officer Members was based almost exclusively on unsolicited letters — most helpful. During the first three months of the year 201 of our 427 Officer Members received a mention.

Lt.-Col. C. WILKINSON attended a memorial service for Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Ernest Percival held yesterday at St. Martins-in-the-Fields.

TWENTY-SECOND. At a church do to-night am introduced to a Mr. Hawksley, who, as a boy, had been a contemporary of Field Marshal Sir FRANCIS FESTING at Winchester College and on retiring as Secretary to the Charter Company of Rhodesia had handed over "Personnel" to Major HOLMES.

From yesterday's *Times*:—"T.A. Lt.-Col. and Bt.-Col. J. I. M. Smail from T.A. Reserve of Officers and from R.N.F. to be Colonel, January 19th." His many friends, amongst our Members, will wish to congratulate the Colonel.

TWENTY-THIRD. A Meeting of the Trustees of the Northumberland Militia Fund, postponed from 16th February, is due to be held to-day.

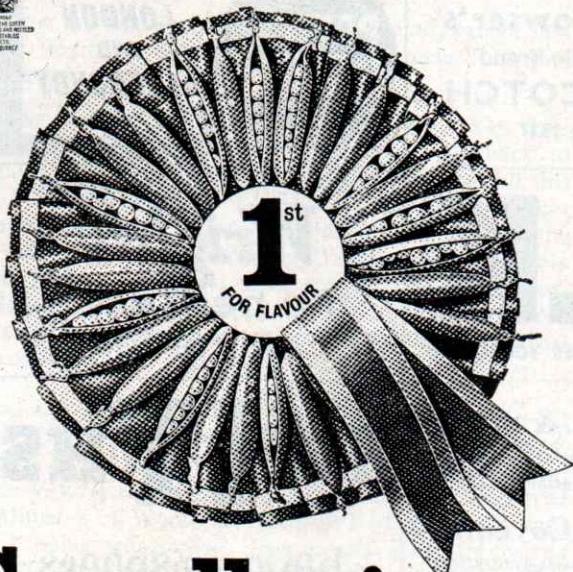
TWENTY-FOURTH. Lt.-Col. AMOS meets me for lunch in the City. His elder son is now at the Green Jackets Depot at Winchester en route, he hopes, to Mons O.C.S. The Colonel is looking forward to attending a C.O.'s Course in Field Engineering (towards the end of next month), when other students include Lt.-Col. BLENKINSOP (O.C. 1 Battalion), O.C. 1 R. War F. (Lt.-Col. H. H. M Marston, M.C.), and O.C. 1 L.F. (Lt.-Col. K. A. Hill, M.B.E., M.C.) Quite a Fusilier Brigade gathering!

TWENTY-FIFTH. Last month I quoted brief extracts from letters of Lt.-Col. PRATT concerning the troubles of R.H.Q.; here is a fuller account from Capt. BINGHAM.

"You will no doubt, by now, be thinking that I have completely dried up on you.

"We have had rather a hectic time here this last few weeks. Since we first moved into this building we have been crying out for a new central heating system. In February last year, we won the battle and the new system was to be installed last June. However, some stupid official in Northern Command lost the authority in his pending tray. Result, delay. Instead of the job being done in the summer it had to be done in the coldest month of the year.

"There we were in the midst of an arctic winter, no heating, pipes being ripped out, holes knocked in walls, electric drills screeching and workmen cursing. The staff miserably trying to keep warm over a two-bar electric fire. The inevitable happened in that nearly all the staff went down with flu. I think the only one who hasn't turned a hair is our little cleaner woman. Not a bit daunted by seeing all her beautifully polished floors ruined, she just kept going round cleaning up after the



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A LARGE HOLIDAY AND CATERING ORGANISATION has vacancies for a limited number of STAFF SUPERVISORS. The appointments do not call for catering experience but applicants must be *NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS* who are sound organisers with a good knowledge of man management.

The SALARY proposed would be £18/20 per week, LIVE IN, ALL FOUND.

The organisation also has a few vacancies in their large SECURITY department (plain clothes and uniformed) and applications from Other Ranks as well as non-commissioned officers are invited for appointments in this interesting field of work. Previous experience not required but applicants should be of smart appearance.

Starting SALARY would be £12/14 per week, LIVE IN, ALL FOUND.

Applications for either post giving details of age, rank and any experience should be forwarded to

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workmen and vainly trying to maintain some resemblance of order.

"Now the heating is in and ready for off, except that the Gas Board haven't yet installed the meter. So, we still freeze.

"The painters and decorators have now taken over from the plumbers, which all in all brings us back to square one. One consolation I have derived from all this is that I find the Ministry of Works a little more imaginative than their predecessors. Instead of slapping on the usual dull greys and greens, they allow one to choose colours. So next time you come you should see a colourful R.H.Q. That is with the exception of the Boardroom which was painted the same colour before we got abreast of the situation.

"At the same time I've had workmen crawling all over the Club repairing roof and painting and decorating. In respect of the latter, I managed to get a quick one in, that the leaking roof ruined our decoration. Instead of suing Ministry of Works for damage I compromised with the Club being redecorated. This is only going to cost us about £20 for a few extras outside the contract. This I am very pleased about as the flooding from the roof made an awful mess and the main room looked most cheerless and depressing. Otherwise we just couldn't afford the money to have it completely done. I have now got them to agree to paint the bedrooms out as well. I'll have to advertise in the *Gazette* for spare beds, etc. It would be nice to get all four fitted up for casual visitors.

"I still don't know how long we will have the building. I gather that the recent state of flux over the T.A. has given us at least another 12 months tenancy. Hence all the activity.

"The Newcastle Branch C.A. are endeavouring to organise a C.A. Regimental Day on St. George's Day this year. It is to take the form of entertaining seventy War Disabled, and R.N.F. Veterans over 70. It is to include, visit to Museum, films, tea, Retreat Beating, and drinks to finish. The whole thing hasn't been firmed up yet but matters are in hand.

"Somehow I have found myself 'Chairing' the Sub-Committee appointed to organise the project. The idea is somewhat ambitious, but not impossible providing it's properly conducted."

TWENTY-SIXTH. Please turn to the previous article for an account of the Mediterranean cruise of Mrs. and Miss BOOTH.

TWENTY-SEVENTH. Lady LONGMORE rings Mrs. HOLDSWORTH HUNT. They have a godson in common. The LONGMORES, having disposed of their London flat to Sir Ullick and Lady Alexander, have acquired a four-bedroomed house, plus garden, in the Ascot area. In the meantime should you wish to contact Lady LONGMORE letters should be sent to her at her mother's home:—Caragh Cottage, 193 Epsom Road, Merrow, Guildford. Surrey.

TWENTY-EIGHTH. Mrs. MORGAN confirms that Mrs. ELLISON has been to stay and adds that she quite often sees Pam Lloyd who had lunched with her recently. Mrs. Lloyd is an aunt of Major BAXTER.

FIRST (March). Lt.-Col. PRATT writes that at their Meeting on the 23rd the Trustees of the Northumberland Militia Fund considered the various points raised by London Area; one of which was that a measure of publicity should be given to the Trustees general policy in *St. George's Gazette*. The Colonel concludes:—"Their policy in regard to information on the Fund was laid down at the first meeting, and I think you know it is to spread this information by means of reports at meetings and Regimental gatherings, and by references to it in *St. George's Gazette*." This is all to the good. We progress.

SECOND. I hear from a Member, who for the purposes of this note must obviously remain anonymous, that two cases of non-Members, which he has kindly helped to sponsor, have received favourable consideration by the Trustees of the Northumberland Militia Fund. Perhaps it would be reassuring to Members if I tell you that of some dozen "cases" handled by London Area since the inception of the Fund a year ago only three demanded financial aid and these were accepted by the Trustees.

From Major-Gen. ST JOHN:—"Yes! I got a chill on the kidneys, which seems to be fashionable this year even though its effects are most demoralising. It took over three weeks to shake off. Most frustrating."

THIRD. Lt.-Col. LEITH MACGREGOR lunched with me in the City. He looks forward to a week's fishing in Eire at Easter.

FOURTH-SIXTH. Withdrawn for 2½ days to a riverside resort.

SEVENTH. Seen at the Army Point-to-Point at Tweseldown on the fourth:—Lt.-Col. and Mrs. DEIGHTON, Brig. and Mrs. HARDY SPICER and Lt.-Col. and Mrs. LEITH MACGREGOR. "It was an excellent day's racing and the weather couldn't have been kinder."

From *The Times*:—The engagement is announced between William Michael Hardy, son of Brigadier and Mrs. L. H. SPICER, of Compton House, Old Brompton Lane, Farnham, Surrey, and Patricia Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Hunter, of Forest House, Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey.

EIGHTH. Yesterday to the City for lunch. There were three guests, Lt.-Gen. Sir Kenneth Darling, G.O.C. in C. Southern Command and Colonel The Royal Fusiliers and Parachute Regiment, came in his capacity as Representative Colonel The Fusilier Brigade. He was accompanied by his A.D.C., Capt. Pike, Parachute Regiment, who had only taken up the appointment a fortnight ago and previously had been in British Guiana where he had met Major MONCUR. Col. Etches, Colonel Fusilier Brigade, came from Warminster where he had been paying a visit to the School of Infantry. Because the General was due to preside at a Regimental Committee Meeting at 2 p.m. time was short so the R.V. chosen was a new pub outside the gates of H.M. Tower of London.

One purpose of this meeting was to try and explain to the *new* Fusilier Brigade Representative Colonel and the *new* Fusilier Brigade Colonel the functions of the Co-ordinating Committee of British Service and Ex-Service Organisations and the Joint Committee of Service and Ex-Service Organisations. Also discussed were the qualifications required by the Fusilier Brigade's representa-

tive(s) to these two Committees. Can the Fusilier Brigade find an expert on Pensions?

Col. Etches had heard from Brig. WILSON and hopes to pay his first visit to Newcastle about St. George's Day.

Also lunching in the restaurant was Lt.-Col. AMOS.

NINTH. Yesterday, introduced by Lt.-Col. DEIGHTON, Mr. Graham Millar visited me in the City. Since joining I Battalion in September last his chief interests appear to have been organising the Battalion's Cross Country Running Team and being a member of the Battalion's successful ski team. He was enjoying a brief spell of leave between attending a helicopter course and rejoining 1 Battalion. He is rather hoping that he may complete his Hythe and Warminster Courses before the Battalion moves to Aden in September.

TENTH. Comes an invitation from the President and The National Executive Council of the British Legion to attend their Annual Conference at Margate from 28th-30th May. We have accepted.

ELEVENTH. I hear that Major COWE finishes his Staff appointment at the School of Infantry on 13th July when he is due to be posted to 1 Battalion, and that Major MONCUR will also join 1 Battalion in February, 1967, when his Staff appointment at H.Q. Northern Command ends. Incidentally I think the Major was due back at York, from British Guiana, last week.

TWELFTH. From Major PURCELL. "I had quite a surprise on 3rd March when after supper two ex 9 Battalion officers called. Owen Everard, vicar of a parish in Halewood, Liverpool, and Laurence Williams (M.T. Officer 9 Battalion), now Managing Director of a distributing firm of Maltsters. It was 20 years since we had last met in Rangoon, so you can imagine there was quite a lot to talk about. Williams lives near Didcot and I think I have persuaded him to join the Association so I am going to ask Col. BUTTERFIELD to follow up with a letter. ROBERT MACGREGOR also gave me another name to follow up for membership, Simpson ex 9 Battalion. Strangely enough, after the War Williams was attached to Simpson's firm to learn the malt business."

THIRTEENTH. It was good of Lt.-Col. PRATT to make time to write to me from his home at Alnwick:— "I looked in on DICK GARDNER (Col. GARDNER), in hospital in Edinburgh last Friday and found him in very good cheer 2 weeks after his operation. He said to tell you he was heartened to read "GRIMES'" (Lt.-Col. GRIMLEY), account of the same operation on the eve of his own. His own had been put off for a time as he had a virus infection so it was rather a coincidence that he got GRIMES' version in time to cheer him up. He hopes to be making progress on crutches in 2 weeks time but said he would use GRIMES' recommended method of going downstairs in his cottage at Yetholm! A very nice hospital, Princess Margaret Rose, and he was full of praise for all. His surgeon, Professor Janes, had also just done a bone graft on a smashed leg of one of my Pony Club children so I was able to get good marks for a right and left visit.

FOURTEENTH. Mrs. GARNIER, writing to ask for an address, adds:—"I think of moving to something smaller but that is about as far as it gets." She lives at Mayfield. Sussex.

FIFTEENTH. I hope you will be sure to turn to previous article and read "Letter from Malaysia." Mrs. SEIDL'S letter came by air and reached me last week.

SIXTEENTH. Mr. Miller has sent me the name of a potential Member, a War II officer who lives in his home town.

SEVENTEENTH. From *The Times*:— "The marriage will shortly take place between Viscount De L'Isle, V.C., P.C., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., and Margaret, widow of Colonel Lord Glanusk, D.S.O." Margaret Lady Glanusk is the daughter of Major-Gen. Shoulbridge and a neighbour of Lt.-Col. and Mrs. BECKWITH.

EIGHTEENTH. Yesterday to the City for a farewell party to Miss Tampion who has been typing these notes for the past seven years and who has kindly consented to continue to do so in her retirement.

Mrs. Hawkes is 92 to-day.

NINETEENTH. Have heard from Col. Etches, Fusilier Brigade Colonel, that he and Major-Gen. Macdonald, Colonel The Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers, aim to attend the Co-ordinating Committee's Annual Reception.

TWENTIETH. Lt.-Col. LEITH MACGREGOR has kindly consented to take over from me as the Representative of our Retired Officer Members on London Area's Committee.

TWENTY-FIRST. Capt. HUBBARD'S last day of service is now 15th May but he carries on in the same appointment (Staff Captain, Officers), as a R.O. III.

Seen at Cheltenham:— Lt.-Col. and Mrs. BRADFORD, Col. BUTTERFIELD, Lt.-Col. DEWHURST, Col. and Mrs. ENDERBY, Major and Mrs. R. FERGUSON, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. HAMILTON, Lt.-Col. SPEER and Brig P. WARD.

FUSILIERS PAST AND PRESENT COMMITTEE MEETING.

The Committee met at The Feathers Hotel, Broadway, at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday 19th February. Present were:—

Lt.-Col. FLOWER (Vice-President).

Lt.-Col. HOLDSWORTH HUNT (Representing Retired Officers).

Lt.-Col. DEIGHTON (Representing Serving Officers).

Col. BUTTERFIELD (Hon. Treasurer).

Mr. EDGAR (Hon. Secretary).

Major PURCELL (Officers' Address List).

Mr. DENNESS (Acting Chairman).

Members: Messrs. POTTS, INGLEDEW, MYERS and Mrs. AHRONSON.

Apologies: Lt.-Col. BYRNE (indisposed), Mr. DUMBRECK (previous engagement).

Minutes. The Hon. Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting and they were passed.

Matters Arising. The Hon. Secretary said that Mr. DENNESS did not wish to stand for the vacant *Chairmanship*. There was one nomination, Mr. H. INGLEDEW, and he proposed that he be elected *Chairman*. Mr. POTTS seconded the proposal and Mr. INGLEDEW was elected.

Mr. DENNESS, vacating in favour, wish Mr. INGLEDEW many happy years of office. Replying, Mr. INGLEDEW said that he was most conscious of the honour bestowed on him; he would, at all times, do his best for the Association.

The Hon. Secretary gave details of:

Arrangements made in connection with St. George's Social Evening, 23rd April, 1966.

Cenotaph Parade, Sunday, 24th April, 1966.

Annual Dinner, 12th November, 1966.

Treasurer's Report. The Hon. Treasurer explained the Accounts, copies of which had been distributed among the Committee. With clarity the figures shewn on the Balance Sheet were fully examined and explained. In the end, after long and fruitful discussion, it was agreed to defer to the September meeting the many useful suggestions resulting therefrom.

Cenotaph Wreath Laying Ceremony. It was confirmed that the Colonel of the Regiment (in his absence from the country on duty), had nominated Major J. PURCELL, M.B.E., to undertake this most important duty for him.

There being no other business the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This followed immediately after the Committee Meeting under the Presidency of Brig. HOBBS.

Silent Tribute. The President read the names of members who had died during the year. A one-minute Silent Tribute was paid to their memory.

Minutes. The Hon. Secretary read the Minutes of the last Annual General Meting which were passed.

Secretary's Report. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. EDGAR, began by saying that, during the year 1965 the Association affairs had followed much the same pattern as for the previous year. Social functions (except the annual dinner), were attended by the usual "hard core" of supporters and he would like to thank them for doing so. The Annual Dinner had been most successful, rarely had he known so many members remain until the end. It was most encouraging to him that this was so. He hoped many others would come along to the next dinner in November. The Newcastle Reunion, too, was most enjoyable, and he was glad that a few of London Area members had managed to get along to it. He was sorry to report that, in spite of his appeal at the last A.G.M., few of London Area members who might well afford to send a donation to the Regimental Aid Society had done so. This caused him some concern because it was the members of the London Area C.A. who had subscribed to the idea that the proper way to help the Aid Society was by the sending of the individual donation. He still hoped very much indeed that this would be done. He wished it to be known once again the good work our Regimental Representatives were still doing on various Committees, ensuring that our Regiment "had a voice" in many important undertakings. In conclusion he wished to thank the President and all members of the Committee for their help during the past year, and he appealed to all members for loyal support.

Finally, he would like to say how grateful he was to Mrs. MORGAN, Lt.-Col. MURTON, M.P., and Lt.-Col.

BYRNE for letters of apology for their non-attendance at the A.G.M.

The President said that he was sure members were grateful to the Hon. Secretary for a most interesting and lucid report. Lt.-Col. DEIGHTON, in proposing the adoption, thanked the Hon. Secretary for his services to the London Area C.A. during the past year. Seconded by Mr. POTTS, the report was adopted.

Treasurer's Report. The Hon. Treasurer, Col. BUTTERFIELD, rising to submit his report, referred members to a copy of the Balance Sheet issued to them. He said that it showed we were living beyond our income to the extent of some £7. Without donations (as in the past), or additional members, this debit balance would continue. He was glad that the Committee were looking into this matter later in the year. He would like to thank Mrs. AHRONSON for her help in making a profit by sale of roses, etc. Finally, he said that should anyone have any questions to ask he would do his best to answer.

Lt.-Col. FLOWER, proposing the adoption of the Hon. Treasurer's report, said that it was most kind of Col. BUTTERFIELD to explain the accounts so thoroughly. He, personally, was always fascinated by it; he thought London Area was fortunate in having such an able Treasurer. He wished to thank him for the good work. Seconded by Capt. CAPSTAFF, the report was adopted.

Selection of Officers. Brig. HOBBS explained that he had completed two years of office as President. It had been the custom in the past to offer to serve again for a further period of one year and he, too, would be delighted to do so. However, his future at the present time was rather uncertain; he might have to move house to Sandwich or he might even have to go abroad. He would like members to bear this in mind in the event of his re-election. Mr. EDGAR proposed that Brig. HOBBS be elected President, London Area C.A. for a further period of one year. Seconded by Mr. DENNESS the proposal was unanimously approved.

Dealing with the remarks made by the President, Lt.-Col. HOLDSWORTH HUNT said that he thought, in the circumstances, it would be a good idea to elect an additional Vice-President to serve with Vice-President Lt.-Col. FLOWER. He therefore proposed that this be done. Col. BUTTERFIELD seconded the proposal. The President said that he would contact the members whose names were submitted to him by the A.G.M. and would report progress back to the Committee.

Brig. HOBBS said that it gave him great pleasure to report that, subject to the approval of the Meeting, all other officials and members of the Committee had expressed their willingness to continue in office and that they could be re-elected en bloc; he was most grateful to all of them.

Lt.-Col. HOLDSWORTH HUNT said that Capt. HUBBARD, ex-officio Committee Member at Fusilier Bde. Depot, had retired from the Service. Capt. HUBBARD was now employed at Sutton Coldfield as a R.O. As far as the Association was concerned, this was excellent as he had offered to continue as ex-officio member and his appointment at Bde. Depot would give continuity of service. He hoped that at some future date we would be able to welcome Capt. HUBBARD to a Branch gathering.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS. Major PURCELL, drawing members' attention to the Fusilier Bde. Council of Colonels policy statement (December *Gazette*, p.254), said that he was most anxious to hear the views of members; more especially to para. 2 of the statement. The President listened most patiently to various speakers. He said he was "most concerned" and promised he would look into the matter and report back.

Major PURCELL said he wished the views of London Area regarding the statement to be reported in the Minutes; this was agreed.

OUR AUDITORS. Col. BUTTERFIELD said he wished it to be known that Mr. Hodge, Association Hon. Member and a member of the staff of Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co. (the Auditors of London Area accounts for the past 17 years), was about to retire from business. However, Mr. Hodge had very kindly expressed his willingness, on retirement, to continue as our Auditor, and that Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co. had been graciously pleased to accept the arrangements under their official auspices. He was sure all members would wish to express gratitude to those concerned.

SOCIAL

The usual "get-together" followed. It was most enjoyable.

We welcomed for the first time the Misses COWEN, Lt.-Col. LEITH-MACGREGOR and Mr. Brison (sometime Tpt. Sgt. 1 and 7 Bns.). News came of the absence through indisposition of several of our regular attenders. We wish them speedy recovery.

The following members attended:— Brig. HOBBS, Col. BUTTERFIELD, Lt.-Col. LEITH-MACGREGOR, Lt.-Col. HOLDsworth HUNT, Lt.-Col. FLOWER, Lt.-Col. DEIGHTON, Major PURCELL, Capt. CAPSTAFF, Capt. STEVENS, Messrs. Brison, Denness, Edgar, Fennamore, Ingledew, Latham, Myers and Potts; Mesdames Ahronson, Cowen, Ingledew and Preddy.

BREVITIES

"Ginger" Myers, at the end of ten days' enforced retirement from Fords owing to "Paint Shop Dispute": Glad to return on Monday, 21st February.

Mr. Potts, having a night out at the Railway Hotel, Greenford, Middx., and sporting the Regimental tie, was waylaid by one Frank Ray (late 9 (Quayside) Bn., now living in London). Potts recruited him to London Area and Frank will be coming along to the Cenotaph Parade in April.

Ted Fennamore, who for many years has been almost voiceless following cancer of the larynx, hopes soon to be equipped with a "voice" aid.

Mr. Brison (a senior Prison Officer) has recently transferred from Leeds to Pentonville. Although he cannot attend all our activities, he will come when he is able to do so.

Fred Latham, Chelsea In-Pensioner, hoping to get an invitation to spend St. George's Day with 1 Bn.?

Lt.-Col. DEIGHTON had just ended an all-night exercise on Salisbury Plain before coming to the Committee Meeting.

George Capstaff has promised R.C.D. to have a night at the latter's Club in Camberley during the "summer". George was delighted that his son-in-law (a serving Major in B.A.O.R.) was appointed an M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List. (May we add our congratulations, too?)

Bill and Mrs. Edgar recently spent a most enjoyable evening as guests of Capt. STEVENS to dinner and theatre afterwards.

It is worth recording that members who attended the A.G.M. came from as far afield as Arundel, Ascot, Farnham, Camberley, Frimley, Wokingham and Oxford.

R.C.D.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE BRANCH

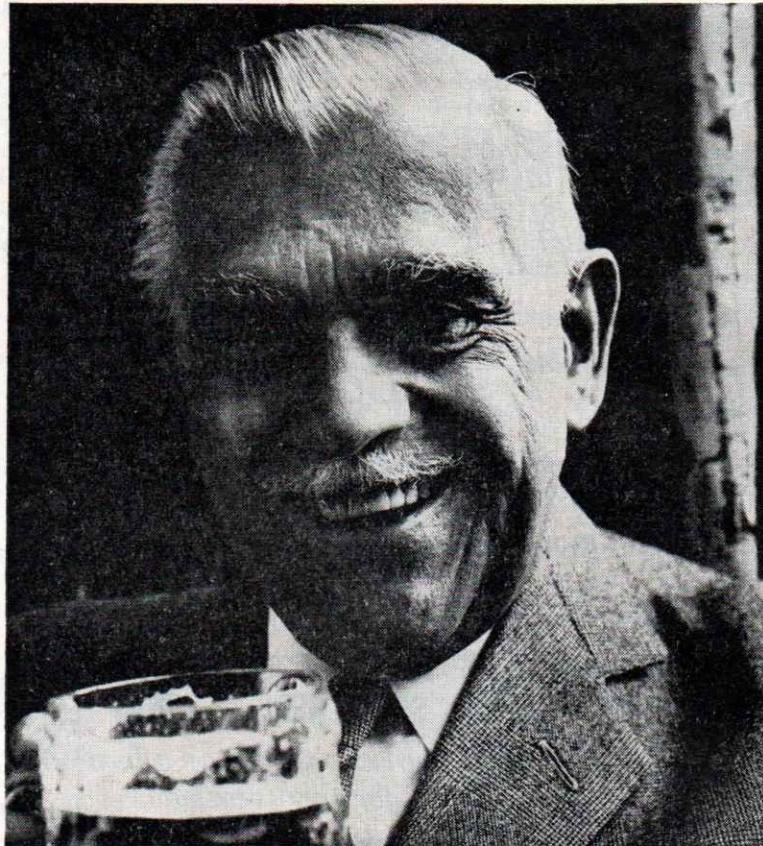
The Regimental Club,
Fenham Barracks.

March, 1966.

It is with the greatest regret that we open our notes this month with the news of the death of one of the best known and best liked old Fusiliers. Namely, Mr. Luke Stuart, who died on Wednesday, 16th March, 1966. He was, until old age and ill-health overtook him, a very keen and regular attender at our Branch meetings. A full appreciation of his service and career will be given elsewhere in these notes. For me, all that remains to be said is that Luke will be sadly missed and always remembered by his many friends and comrades of the Newcastle Branch. At his funeral the Branch was represented by the Secretary, Mr. R. W. Allan, Capt. Bob Cowens and Mr. W. J. McIver. Also at the funeral was Mr. E. Beck, ex-2nd Bn., who also represented the London Area. News has also come to hand of the death of yet another old Fusilier. He was Mr. George Armstrong, of Prudhoe. Mr. Armstrong joined the 4th North'd Fusiliers in 1914 and served with that Bn. until 1916, when he was transferred to the 12th Bn. He was then transferred to the 2nd Bn., with whom he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He was finally discharged in 1921. During the First World War he served in France and Italy with the 4th and 12th Bns., and with the 2nd Bn. served in Mesopotamia, Basrah and India.

There are two new members to report this month. Mr. Nicholas Scott, who served with The Regiment from June, 1940 until September, 1944 and was mentioned in Dispatches, and Mr. "Kit" Bell, who served with The Regiment from March, 1938 until April, 1946. Mr. Bell is still serving with 4th/5th Bn. as C/Sgt. To both these new members we offer a hearty and sincere welcome to the Branch and hope to see them often at our monthly meetings. There is little else to note this month. Plans and preparations for the "Open Day" in Fenham Barracks on St. George's Day are well in hand and from the response to letters and circulars, bids fair to be a great success. Plans for the Annual Dinner and Dance are also well in hand. We are hoping for an even bigger success than last year. Since the Regimental Club was redecorated and the heating system improved, the attendance has greatly improved and everyone has remarked on the vastly improved look and comfort of the place. With the gradual improvement in the weather and properly organised entertainment now laid on, things should really go with a swing. In fact, it is

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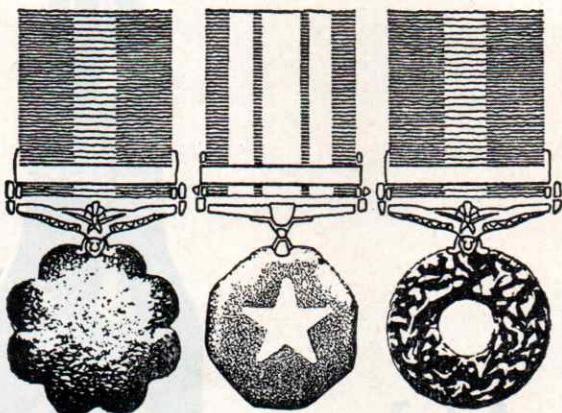
looks in at the local

BECAUSE of my name, most people think I'm Russian. In fact I'm English and Karloff was my mother's family name. I borrowed it because I thought that it would look and sound better. I've kept my British nationality through more than forty years in Hollywood and now I'm home to stay more or less for good.

Why I came back

It would sound too much like an advertisement for the Brewers' Society if I said I had come home because of the pubs. I didn't. The English countryside (where I now have a cottage), London, English voices, the food here, the pace at which life is lived, sheer homing instinct—all of these things drew me back.

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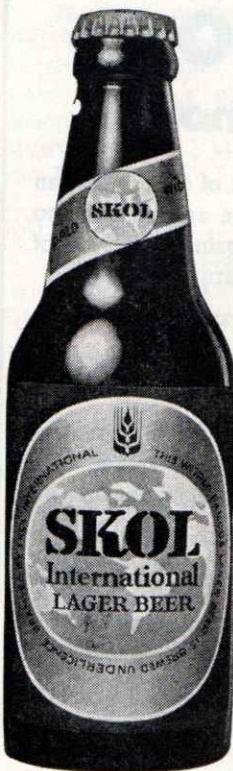
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believed that the management of the Dolce Vita are beginning to be greatly concerned and will have to start looking to their laurels. Finally, may I once again make my annual plea to all members. It is once again time for Annual Subscriptions to be paid. I need hardly say that the Branch depends on two things for its very existence. Subs. and the Annual St. Leger Draw. So please, everyone, look at your membership card and check when last you paid your subs. A lot of our members will be very surprised to see how many years have slipped by since their last subscription was paid.

R.W.A.

Letters to the Editor

W.O.I G. E. Richardson,
Fifth Fusiliers,
Admin.,
Rheindahlen Garrison,
B.F.P.O. 40.

Dear Sir,

I wondered if through the medium of *The St. George's Gazette* I might be so bold as to ask if anybody is looking for a hard working, trustworthy ex-W.O.I. I

have decided to retire from the Army after 32 years' service and would like to offer my services to "a connection of the Fifth" firstly if this is possible.

Yours sincerely,
Sir,
GEO. E. RICHARDSON.

101 Gretna Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne, 5.
22nd March, 1966.

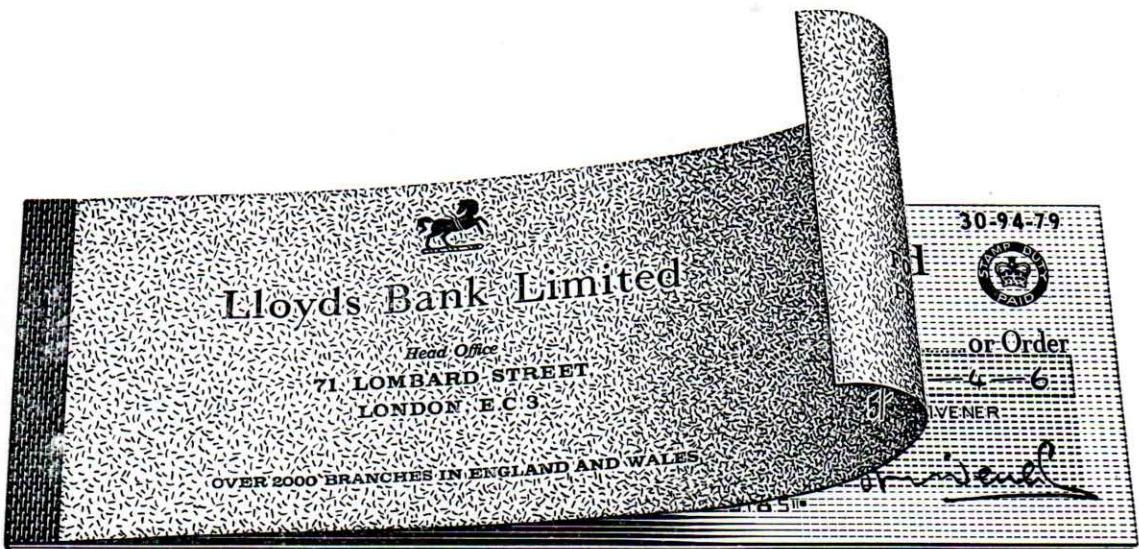
Dear Sir,

With reference to the V.C. notes supplied by Mr. R. C. Denness in your February issue, I would refer to my article under the heading of "Regimental Quiz" which was published in *St. George's Gazette*, 31.5.1952. From this it will be noted that

Private Ernest Sykes, V.C. 27th (Service) Bn. Tyneside Irish, died on the 3rd August, 1949, and was buried at Woodfield Cemetery, Lockwood.

The Grant, McManus, McHale and Johnson V.C.s are on display in the Regimental Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Yours sincerely
G. N. FARRIER.



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